

Appropriations Committee Co-Chair  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear **Senator Toni Harp**,

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

My name is Eddie Matthews and I am a freshman in the Wamogo agriscience program in Litchfield. I live in Torrington and I attend this regional agriscience school program because I want to pursue a career in the agricultural division. Currently I work at Supreme Industries Inc., I work in the forestry division for my SAE. This helps me prepare for and get ready to work in the field I'm interested in. I am studying to become an Agricultural Engineer. I would like to design new Forestry equipment. I love the agriscience program. It teaches me about animals, plants, machinery, and Natural resources. When you join the agriscience program you join the FFA. FFA is a program that practices leadership, teamwork and the other important fundamentals of life. It helps teach me honor and responsibility.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs. Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details) This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Matthews". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Eddie Matthews